

July 23, 2017

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Re: Proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline – Threats to Citizens and the Environment

Dear Governor Cooper,

We come together as citizens and organizations that care deeply about North Carolina, both for the beauty of her people and her amazing natural environment, to ask you to please take a stand against the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline would cut through the heart of eastern North Carolina, crossing many major rivers, hundreds of tributaries and feeder streams, and destroy over 600 acres of wetlands. These waters are home to fragile ecosystems and many species that are endangered, some of which are found only in North Carolina. These same waters lead to an already imperiled estuary and are the source of drinking water for many communities in our state.

After extensive review a collaborative team of several North Carolina environmental organizations have found major flaws in the draft Environmental Impact Statement. We have attached these findings for your review and they have also been submitted to NCDEQ.

No doubt Duke Energy and Dominion Energy, along with other fracked gas interests, are applying unrelenting pressure on your office to build this pipeline, asserting there are currently no other energy or storage options that can serve as an effective energy alternative to coal. But this is simply wrong. Many organizations have developed workable plans to quickly transition to sustainable, renewable energy sources that rely on wind and solar. North Carolina can reduce our energy demand by 30 to 40 percent by cost effective, socially just, and job creating energy efficiency improvements for homes and businesses. And there are sufficient storage technologies available today that would negate the need for Duke to build additional fracked gas plants across the state. This can be done today!

We understand the desire to balance the energy needs of North Carolina across a variety of sources to ensure a reliable energy foundation to meet the constant demand. We thank you for speaking out and opposing seismic blasting and offshore drilling off the coast of North Carolina. We also thank you for signing on with other governors, cities, and business leaders in supporting climate action to meet the Paris Agreement. Yet an investment in the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and additional fracked gas infrastructure across the state as Duke Energy has proposed would further marry our state to a future with fossil fuels for at least another half a century and

work against the goals of the Paris Agreement. We simply cannot do this. We no longer have the time.

It is time to invest in renewable energy and storage. It is time to bring green jobs to North Carolina and clean air and water and the healthy environment this transition will mean for all of us. It is time to create a power plan where communities take part in deciding our energy future. It is time for Duke Energy to put the era of fossil fuels behind them and time for North Carolina to become a leader in renewable energies for the nation. We can and should do this!

We are here for you and ready to do all we can to support you and the State of North Carolina in this exciting transition to a future of clean energy that will allow us all to care for the treasures of our beautiful state and learn to live in partnership with the planet. We are calling on you to lead us there.

Sincerely,

Karen Bearden, 350 Triangle
Amy Adams, Appalachian Voices
Amanda Robertson, APPPL
Ericka Faircloth, Clean Water for North Carolina
Marvin Winstead, Nash Stop the Pipeline
Rick Savage, Former DENR employee